

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10
NEA-10 /104 W
-----058235 220236Z /70

R 211355Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9459
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 3254

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM SHUM UNGA CY HU RQ US
SUBJECT: UNGA CONSULTATIONS

REF: STATE 205678

SUMMARY: GOH INDICATES INTEREST IN DISARMAMENT, DETENTE, AND CYPRUS -- WHERE A CRISIS COULD HARM DETENTE. PRE-UNGA CONSULTATIONS PROVIDED USEFUL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS, BUT IT CLEAR THAT HUNGARY WILL, AS USUAL, FOLLOW SOVIET LEAD AT UNGA. END SUMMARY.

1. ON SEP 15, EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICER CALLED ON LASZLO EREDICS, ONE OF TWO HUNGARIAN OFFICIALS IN UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF MFA WHO IS IN CHARGE OF POLITICAL AND UNGA AFFAIRS. PURPOSE OF CALL WAS TO GO OVER ISSUES LIKELY TO BE RAISED AT FORTHCOMING SESSIONS OF 31ST AND 32ND UNBA. EREDICS LISTENED POLITELY TO DEMARCHE BUT VOLUNTEERED LITTLE FROM HUNGARIAN SIDE. HE EXPRESSED GENUINE INTEREST ONLY WITH REGARD TO QUESTIONS OF DETENTE, DISARMAMENT AND
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CYPRUS.

2. EREDICS SAID GOH WAS VERY HOPEFUL THAT MOMENTUM TOWARDS DETENTE WOULD AGAIN PICK UP AT FORTHCOMING UNGA. HE SAID GOH WAS GLAD USG HAD PERMITTED ENTRY OF SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM INTO UN. HE SAID GOH ACTIVELY SUPPORTING ALL SOVIET DISARMAMENT INI-

TIATIVES AND HOPEFUL OF HOLDING DOWN HUNGARIAN ARMS BUDGET WHICH THREATENED TO BECOME INCREASING BURDEN. HE SAID GOH REGARDED SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT (SSOD) SCHEDULED FOR SPRING OF 1978 AS BASICALLY A PREPARATORY MEETING FOR A WIDER WOULD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE TO BE SCHEDULED FOR A LATER DATE. ASKED IF THIS MEANT THAT HUNGARY DID NOT ENVISAGE THE SSOD AS A FORUM WHERE IMPORTANT SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES MIGHT BE RESOLVED, HE ASSERTED GOH WOULD WORK FOR DISARMAMENT AT SSOD.

3. EREDICS QUERIED POLOFF ABOUT U.S. POLICY TOWARDS CYPRUS. HE WAS NOT PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT TACTICAL MANEUVERING IN FORTHCOMING UNGA BUT DANGER THAT CYPRUS QUESTION COULD UPSET THE PEACE. HE NOTED GEOGRAPHICAL PROXIMITY OF CYPRUS AND HUNGARY, AND CLAIMED THAT SHARPENING CRISIS ON ISLAND COULD SPILL OVER AND AFFECT HUNGARY. MOREOVER, HE FEARED DAMAGE WHICH MIGHT BE ULTIMATELY CAUSED TO DETENTE. AT SAME TIME, EREDICS MADE CLEAR HUNGARY'S DESIRE THAT DYPRUS REMAIN A NONALIGNED STATE. EMBOFF SAID USG WAS WORKING TO ENCOURAGE A RESOLUTION OF PROBLEM WHICH WILL BE SATISFACTORY TO BOTH GREEK AND TURKISH COMMUNITY ON CYPRUS.

4. POLOFF BROUGHT UP QUESTIONS OF PUERTO RICO AND
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GUAM AND URGED THAT HUNGARY TAKE THE LEAST OFFENSIVE ACTION POSSIBLE ON THESE ISSUES IF THEY SHOULD ARISE IN UNGA. HE MENTIONED REFUSAL IN 1975 OF HUNGARY TO SPONSOR PUERTO RICAN RESOLUTION (WHICH THEY SUBSEQUENTLY VOTED FOR, HOWEVER) AS EXAMPLE WHERE HUNGARY HAD TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION IN PAST U.S. SENSITIVITIES ON QUESTIONS OF LESS THAN CENTRAL IMPORTANCE TO HUNGARY. EREDICS DID NOT REACT.

5. EREDICS DID NOT RAISE QUESTIONS OF NORTH-SOUTH ECONOMIC DIALOGUE. ALL OTHER ISSUES REFTEL DISCUSSED, POLOFF RELYING ON TALKING POINTS PROVIDED. EREDICS CLAIMED U.S. AND GOH FOLLOWING SIMILAR CONSTRUCTIVE POLICY ON NAMIBIA. HE SAID THAT POSITIONS WERE ALSO SIMILAR ON LIMITING UN BUDGET. HUNGARY, HE ALSO SAID, DID NOT WISH TO ATTEMPT TO MODIFY CHARTER AS THIS WOULD SIMPLY GENERATE MUCH DEBATE AND WASTED ENERGY. IT PREFERRED INSTEAD TO FIND WAYS OF IMPROVING EXISTING UN ORGANS.

6. ONLY OTHER NOTABLE EXCHANGE OCCURRED ON HUMAN RIGHTS. EREDICS SAID GOH THOUGH IT WAS NOT NECESSARY

TO ESTABLISH A POST OF HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. "THERE WAS NO REASON WHY ONE PERSON SHOULD DECIDE SUCH ISSUES."

7. COMMENT: WHILE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT HUNGARY'S CONCERNS ON DISARMAMENT, ARMS EXPENDITURE, AND DETENTE ARE GENUINE, GOH CAN BE EXPECTED TO FOLLOW THE SOVIET LEAD ON ALL MAJOR ISSUES. WITHIN THIS LIMIT, WE EXPECT HUNGARY TO BE SYMPATHETIC TO U.S. AIMS ON THOSE ISSUES WHERE WE HAVE THE ELEMENTS OF A COMMON POSITION (E.G. BUDGET LIMITATION). EREDICS' FEARS ON INCREASED ARMS BURDEN MAY BE FAINT ECHO OF REACTION TO SOVIET PRESSURE ON GOH, REPORTED BY DATT, TO INCREASE ITS ARMS EXPENDITURES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISARMAMENT, DETENTE, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BUDAPE03254
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770344-0315
Format: TEL
From: BUDAPEST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770941/aaaabhwc.tel
Line Count: 137
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 18768741-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 205678
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1198453
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNGA CONSULTATIONS
TAGS: PARM, SHUM, CY, HU, RQ, US, UNGA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/18768741-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009